

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing non-fetal donor liver tissue to obtain an enriched population of progenitor cells comprising:

(a) ~~providing~~ obtaining non-fetal donor tissue obtained between about 2 hours and 30 hours postmortem; and

(b) processing said non-fetal donor tissue to obtain an enriched population of progenitor cells.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the donor tissue is obtained within about 2 hours and about six hours after the heartbeat ceased.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the donor tissue is obtained within about 2 hours and about three hours after the heartbeat ceased.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the donor tissue is cooled.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the donor tissue is cooled to about 4 °C.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the donor is an adult.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the donor is a pig or a primate.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which the processing step provides a single cell suspension or an explant.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 in which the processing step additionally comprises selecting from the suspension those cells that express at least one marker associated positively or negatively with at least one progenitor cell lineage.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 in which the processing step additionally comprises a debulking step, to provide a debulked cell suspension enriched in progenitors exhibiting at least one marker associated with at least one progenitor cell lineage.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 in which the at least one progenitor cell lineage includes hepatic cell lineage.

16. (Currently amended) A method of procuring liver progenitor cells, comprising:

(a) ~~providing~~ obtaining a non-beating heart donor between about 2 hours and 30 hours postmortem as a liver tissue source;

(b) obtaining liver tissue from said donor; and

(c) processing the liver tissue to obtain the progenitor cells.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the donor is a mammal.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the mammal is a human.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the progenitor cells have the capacity to develop into hepatocytes, biliary cells, or a combination thereof.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which the cells of the donor express at least one of alpha-fetoprotein, albumin, bone sialoprotein, CD14, CD34, CD38, CD90, CD45,

CD117, ICAM-1, collagen type I, collagen type II, collagen type III, glycophorin A, or osteopontin.

21. (Currently amended) A method of processing a liver tissue having at least one progenitor cell population as a source of progenitor cells, comprising:

(a) ~~providing~~ obtaining a donor having a non-beating heart between about 2 hours and 30 hours postmortem;

(b) harvesting the tissue from the donor, the tissue having at least one progenitor cell population; and

(c) processing further the harvested tissue to obtain progenitor cells.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of processing a liver tissue having at least one diploid cell population as a source of diploid cells, comprising:

(a) ~~providing~~ obtaining a donor having a non-beating heart between about 2 hours and 30 hours postmortem;

(b) harvesting a tissue from a donor, the tissue harvested being suspected of having at least one diploid cell population; and

(c) processing the harvested tissue to obtain a population of cells enriched in diploid cells.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the donor is not a fetus.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 in which the donor is an adult.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the diploid cells include progenitors.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 in which the processing step comprises processing the harvested tissue to provide a single cell suspension.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 in which the processing step further comprises separating the single cell suspension into two or more fractions.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 in which the separating step separates larger cells from smaller cells, higher density cells from lower density cells, or both.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 in which one or more fractions consisting essentially of smaller cells, lower density cells, or both, are further processed to provide a population of cells enriched in diploid cells.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 in which the diploid cells include progenitors that express alpha-fetoprotein.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 in which the progenitors include liver progenitors.

33. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the tissue is harvested within about six hours after the heartbeat ceased.

34. (Original) The method of claim 23 in which the tissue is harvested within about three hours after the heartbeat ceased.

35.-40. (Canceled)